

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

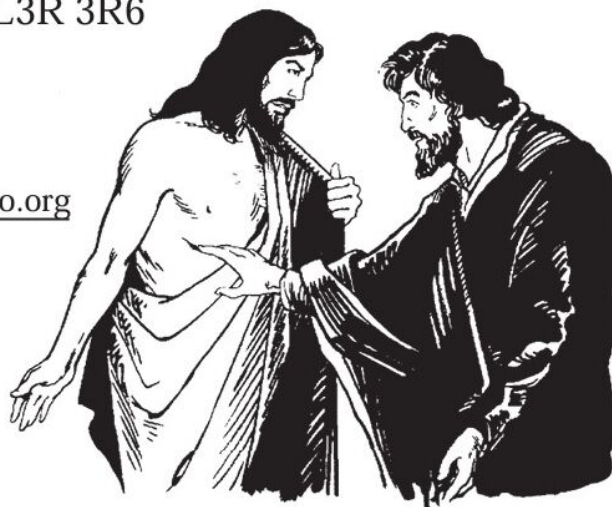
14 Highgate Drive, Markham, Ontario L3R 3R6

(2 blocks north of Steeles at Birchmount)

905-474-1224 / fax 905-474-1277

stthomastheapostlema@archtoronto.org

website: <https://stthomastheapostlema.archtoronto.org>



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Saturday: Office Closed

Pastor - Fr. Allyn Rose (ext. 222)
 Father Patrick Gnanapragasam (in residence) 647-877-1774
 Deacon - Everis Munroe (ext. 223)
 Secretary - Jackie Mackenzie (ext. 221)
 Part Time Secretary: Maureen Daunt

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday 8:00, 10:00 and 12:00 noon
Ask ushers for listening - aid devices

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday through Friday 12:10 and 7:00 p.m.
 Saturday 9:00 a.m. (at Church)
 Thurs. evening Mass is in Latin - *forma ordinaria*

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Thursday & Fridays after the 12:10 Mass to
 7:00 Evening Mass.

CONFESSIONS

Before all Weekend and Weekday Masses
 Father Allyn Rose: 416-799-0407
 Father Patrick Gnanapragasam: 647-877-1774

DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Wednesdays before & after evening Mass.

BAPTISMS

Will be the Saturdays of each month at 9:30 a.m.
 An information package should be picked up
 at the Parish Office before meeting with the deacon.

MARRIAGES

An information package should be picked up at the Parish
 Office before meeting with the priest.
 One year advanced planning is required.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Families should notify the Parish Office
 in the event of serious illness.

“Dominus meus et Deus meus”

SCHOOLS

St. Benedict	905-475-9646
St. Francis Xavier	905-470-2225

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

www.ycdsb.ca

PARISH GROUPS

Altar Boys	Father Allyn Rose	Parish Office
Lectors	Anna Torres	416-335-9142
Ushers	Alex Ho-Shue	905-479-2543
Children's Liturgy	Winnie Thien	905-940-1059
Screening Coordinator	Liz Pinto	905-889-5755
R.C.I.A.	Juliette Huang	416-302-1823
Legion of Mary Sr.	Amy Rebeiz	647-643-2232
Legion of Mary Jr.	Juliette Huang	416-302-1823
Men's Group	Lloyd Macheranes	647-461-2464
Prayer Group	Al Jacob	416-697-7179
Seniors	Les Rodrigues	905-479-6023
Society of St. Vincent de Paul		905-474-1224 ext. 230
Knights of Columbus	Herwin Shillingford	416-824-3347
FNE Explorers	Maurice Chang	416-889-0183

PARISH MUSICIANS

Organists

Christopher Ku/Kevin Ku	416-298-2541
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DAY CARE

St. Mary of Leuca	905-475-2536
St. Mary of Leuca CONVENT	905-475-2350

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday December 18** 12:10 p.m.
+Reverend William Breen
(Jackie Mackenzie)
- Monday December 18** 7:00 p.m.
+George Poblete
(Jose Family)
- Tuesday December 19** 12:10 p.m.
+Mrs. Lai-Ying Poon
(Jefferson Tse)
- Tuesday December 19** 7:00 p.m.
Intentions of Amanda Menezes
(Merle and Clare Menezes)
- Wednesday December 20** 12:10 p.m.
In Thanksgiving for Cheng Family
- Wednesday December 20** 7:00 p.m.
Intentions of Dolores Poblete
(Jose Family)
- Thursday December 21** 12:10 p.m.
+Marcus Cheng
(Cheng Family)
- Thursday December 21** 7:00 p.m.
+Althea Smith
(Angie and Pat)
- Friday December 22** 12:10 p.m.
In Thanksgiving and for the intentions of
Rex, Margaret, Jefferson, and Giovanna Tse
- Friday December 22** 7:00 p.m.
Maronite Mass
- Saturday December 23** 9:00 a.m.
Intentions of Carrie Ho
(Edna Ho)
- Saturday December 23** 5:00 p.m.
Intentions of JP and Virginie Chan
(Pat Chong and Family)
- Sunday December 24** 8:00 a.m.
For the People of the Parish
- Sunday December 24** 10:00 a.m.
+Kut Oi ling
(Family)
- Sunday December 24** 12:00 p.m.
+Senia Veracruz
(Family)
- Sunday December 24** 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve – For the People
- Sunday December 24** 12:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve – For the People

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT **(GAUDETE SUNDAY)** **SUNDAY DECEMBER 17, 2023**

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Giuseppina Sala, Fitzroy James, Edilberto Claveria, Jack Wilson, Phillip Kong, Aloysius Carvalho, Nicholas Marshall, Tony Romero, Al Jacob, Bruce Crepe, Romana Pena, Godofredo Pena Jr., Priscilla Lumanlan, Paul Giallonardo, Liza Chan, William Lee Ah-Chong, Amy Tsang, Grace Chan, Mary Foo, Lynn Demers, Edwin Quiambao, Mary Josephine Albert, Betty Chan, William Yung, Agnes Yuen, Rowena Poon, Emilia Cabral, Jessica Kong, Dorine Couture, Maryann Redoblado, Veronica Small, Annette McIntosh, Kevin Ramoutar, Benedict Maraj and Mimi Borromeo, Erlinda Petfield, Ching Lan, Chiu Jung Lin, Anthony Small, Maryann Redoblado and Jonrick Carlo Bautista.

PRAY FOR THE DEAD: Father Patrick Joseph Fitzpatrick, Father William Henry Irwin, Paul Chan, Henry Leung, Helen Leung and for those who have no one to pray for.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. Email: vocations@archtoronto.org Website: www.vocationstoronto.ca



PARISH OFFERTORY

Weekly goal \$7,500.00 (to meet our expenses). We received \$10,327.42 (Includes Pag, Donate Now, etc.).



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- **Christmas Eve Masses: 5:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m.**
- **Christmas Day Masses: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon.**
- **Confessions before Sunday Masses on December 24th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.**

January 1, 2024 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation

- **New Year's Eve Mass: 5:00 p.m.**
- **New Year's Day Masses: 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon.**
- **Confessions before Sunday Masses on December 31st. Also, confessions from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve.**



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The KOC continue to fundraise by collecting EMPTIES, such as the following: Beer cans or bottles, wine bottles, spirits such as (vodka, rum, or whiskey, etc.). **Drop off location for empties, downstairs by the washrooms.** All proceeds will go to St. Thomas the Apostle and the Charities of the KOC.



ALL ARE INVITED TO THE ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 31 IN THE PARISH HALL FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 1:00 A.M.

Buffet dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. Liquor licensed – bring your own beverage. Only water available with dinner. Children dinner 7:00 p.m., followed by children's countdown at 8:00 p.m. There will be party favours, prizes and games. Tickets \$40.00. Early bird \$35.00 before November 30th. Children's tickets \$15.00. To reserve your tickets, contact an OASIS member, or email: oasis.stthomas@gmail.com or text Les 905-479-6023 or Russell 647-898-6480. Tickets will be available after all weekend Masses, December 3 & 4 and 9 & 10. All proceeds to St. Thomas the Apostle Church.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gospel Reading - John 1:6-8,19-28

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priest, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptism that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the Savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our Savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The Third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

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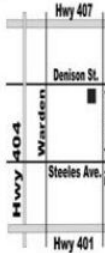
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